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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS NO. 539
PROGRAM TITLE

See other copy

SUSTAINING
ADVERTISER

AGENCY

WRITER

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1943
DAY & DATE

11:30-12:00 NOON BLUE
TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

CAST

BESS..KATHERINE CARD

JIM..HARVEY HAYS

JERRY..JOHNNY LARKIN

MARY..LUCILE HUSTING

RUTH..FLORENCE SKEELS

SOUND

REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:

This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

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MADE BY A RESEARCH LABORATORY
The copy represents a preliminary study of the material. All statements made in this report are preliminary and are subject to change.

1 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

2 MUSIC: THEME

3 ANNOUNCER: Forest Rangers spend a lot of their time doing a job of protection.
 4 They protect the trees in their care, the birds and wild
 5 animals, the fish in the forest streams, and the cattle and
 6 sheep and horses that graze in the National forests. More than
 7 that, they protect the lives and rights of the people who
 8 live or work within the forest area. And, as we shall see,
 9 the Ranger's work is not always confined to safeguarding
 10 lives and property against fire and storm and other physical
 11 dangers. Sometimes human feelings and emotions come into
 12 the picture..Now to the Pine Cone Ranger Station. Several
 13 days have passed since the eventful flood which washed away
 14 part of the nearby town of Willow Glen, and Ranger Jim Robbins
 15 and his assistant, Jerry Quick are just about over the
 16 effects of their long, hard battle against the destructive
 17 waters. Right now they're resting a bit in the company of
 18 Jim's wife, Bess, and Jerry's sweetheart, Mary Halloway, out
 19 on the porch of the Ranger Station. However, something
 20 seems to be bothering Jim, and, well, here they are:

21 BESS: (FADING IN) Jim Robbins, I declare, you haven't said a word
 22 for the past twenty minutes. Do you feel all right, Jim?

23 JIM: Yeah. Yeah, sure. I'm all right, Bess. I've been thinking,
 24 that's all.
 25

THEY WERE ALL THERE

THEY

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1 JERRY: (CHUCKLING) I thought I recognized the signs. When Jim gets
 2 that faraway look on his face we oughta put out a sign:
 3 "Quiet, man thinking!"

4 MARY: (LIGHTLY) I wish we could say the same about you, Jerry, -
 5 sometimes.

6 JERRY: Huh? What d'ya mean?

7 BESS: (LAUGHING) Oh, I suppose Jerry thinks now and then too, Mary..
 8 at least about food, and getting more sleep and..

9 MARY: Yes, I suppose that's right....As for really serious thinking,
 10 though, I wonder if my Jerry ever..

11 JERRY: Hey Jim, you goin' to let these women brow-beat your
 12 assistant ranger like that? Go on, Jim, tell 'em about
 13 all the weighty problems we hafta solve..What're you
 14 thinking about so hard right now, for instance.

15 JIM: (SERIOUS) I've been thinking about Ruth Evans - and her
 16 little boy - and all the hard luck she's had, with that
 17 blasted flood and all.

18 JERRY: Oh!...I'm sorry, Jim.

19 JIM: I reckon those men down at Willow Glen that let all those
 20 town woods be stripped off last year - I reckon they're
 21 sorry, too, now that it's too late..

22 MARY: You really think then, Mr. Robbins, that cutting all that
 23 timber off the watershed brought on the flood?

24 JIM: It helped a lot, Mary. That barren watershed's where the
 25 flood comes from.

REPLY:

(FORK-LINE) I thought I recognized the name. When I
that "anyway look on the face we didn't put out a sign
"oh, yes, righting!"

REPLY:

"oh, yes, righting!"

REPLY:

(FORK-LINE) Oh, I suppose they didn't see and then they

and I was about to go and getting more help and...

Yes, I suppose that's right. As for really making the...

thought, I wonder if my letter is any better over.

My dear, you know, so far there were some good points

and I was about to go and getting more help and...

all the things problems we have solved. What is your

thinking about so hard right now, for instance?

(REPLY) I've been thinking about Helen Evans - and her

little boy - and all the hard work she's got, with that

blasted food and all.

Oh, it's sorry, Jim.

I reckon those are down at Willow Glen that the all phone

town would be stopped all last year - I reckon they're

sorry, too, now that it's too late.

Don't really think about Mr. Robbins, and getting all that

lumber off the waterway brought on the flood.

is helped a lot, Mary. That barrier was a whole lot

local cases there.

1 JERRY: Sure. After they messed up the whole natural balance on that
2 land up above Willow Glen by destroying the forest cover,
3 every rain since then helped pile up the mud and silt in the
4 town reservoir, see? Then it was only a matter of having
5 a good heavy storm to make the water spill over and wreck
6 the dam and flood part of the town.

7 BESS: But you were speaking about Ruth Evans, Jim. After all, she's
8 just one of a lot of folks who were washed out in the flood.

9 JIM: Well, she kinda represents all of 'em in my mind, I guess.
10 Maybe it's on account of Pete..

11 JERRY: Pete Evans, the best doggoned fire guard we ever had here in
12 the Pine Cone..yeah, I see why you'd be 'specially worried
13 about Pete's wife, Jim.

14 MARY: But you were able to get Mrs. Evans to serve as looko ut
15 on Bald Peak..Pete's old station..Won't that job be a big
16 help to her right now?

17 JERRY: Aw now, wait a minute, Mary. Let's stay straight on this.
18 Putting Mrs. Evans up there at Bald Peak should'nt be
19 considered any bigheartedness on our part. We're the ones
20 who're getting the break there.

21 JIM: Yeah, that's right, Mary. It was lucky for us Ruth found
22 herself in a position to take the job. She knows that
23 Bald Peak country like a book, and she's been up there with
24 Pete enough to know all the ropes, see? We've had such
25 a tough time finding an experienced hand for that station,
that like Jerry says, getting Ruth was a break for us.

about. After that passed up the shore, I thought of
land up above. I'll give by answering the forest, saying
every rain since then helped life on the land and said in the
house, "I'm not only a member of having
a good heavy rain to take the water with me, but I
and the land and the land of the town.
But you were speaking about the town, Jim. After all, it
least one of a lot of things who were washed out in the flood.
Well, the kind of things all of 'em in my mind, I guess.
Maybe it's an account of them.
Pete knows, the best doghouse in the yard we ever had here in
the line of things. Yeah, I see why you'd be especially worried
about Pete's wife, Jim.
But you were able to get him. Evans to serve as John's
on the beach. That's a old station. What's that job in a big
help to her right now?
No, now wait a minute, Mary. Let's stay standing on this
"Pete's wife, Evans is there at the beach, right?"
considered and I'll be there in our camp. Well, the ones
who're getting the beach there.
Yeah, that's right, Mary. It was lucky for us that Evans
himself in a position to take the job. She knows that
that's the country like a book, and she's been up there with
Pete enough to know all the ropes, see? He's had much
a tough time finding an expert to lead the team, and
that like Jerry says, getting into was a break for me.

1 BESS: Yes, but the job by itself hardly makes up for Ruth's loss
 2 of her little home and garden, does it?
 3 MARY: No, of course it doesn't. I see that now.
 4 JERRY: Golly, that's something to think about, all right. When Pete
 5 signed up for Uncle Sam's Army he put every scrap of savings
 6 into that little bungalow for his wife and kid, didn't he?
 7 Wait'll he hears about the flood and what it did to that
 8 nest-egg...
 9 BESS: He'll never hear it from Ruth, I'll wager. That's one thing.
 10 Ruth will carry on her job here at home, for her and the boy,
 11 without a murmur of protest..Pete'll find out when he comes
 12 home of course, but..
 13 JIM: I'm wondering if Pete ...if Pete will know about it..eyer.
 14 MARY: Why, Mr. Robbins, what do you mean?
 15 BESS: Yes, Jim, what kind of talk is that? Ruth told me the very
 16 first day she went up to the lookout station that she'd
 17 heard Pete might be coming home soon ^{and} ~~for a furlough~~..and
 18 that that very fact was helping her to forget most of her
 19 troubles..
 20 JIM: (QUIETLY) The ship Pete was on....it.....well, it was
 21 torpedoed, coming across.
 22 BESS: Oh no!
 23 JERRY: Aw, come off with that stuff, Jim. How would you know that?
 24
 25

1 JIM: It says so here (SOUND OF PAPER RUSTLING) , here in this
2 telegram I've got in my pocket..well, not in so many words,
3 maybe, but it reports that Pete is missing..without a
4 trace..

5 JERRY: I don't get it, Jim. How would you know what's in that
6 telegram? It's still sealed, looks like..Who's it for,
7 anyway?

8 JIM: It's for Ruth Evans.

9 BESS: Jim!..Jim, when did you get that telegram for Ruth?

10 JIM: Three-four days ago, when Jerry and I got back from Willow
11 Glen..the same day we took Ruth up to Bald Peak Lookout
12 Station..Andy Goodman gave it to me and he told me what
13 the message was. It'd just come over the wires.

14 MARY: But if he gave it to you four days ago, Mr. Robbins, why..
15 why haven't you given it to Mrs. Evans?

16 JERRY: Yeah, what's the idea, Jim? We oughta get that message up
17 to her.

18 BESS: Oh, Jim..I see it all now. That's what had you so low all
19 this time. That message and what you know it will do to
20 Ruth Evans on top of all the other heartache she's just
21 gone through..
22
23
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20 Ruth Evans on top of all the other heartache she's just
21 gone through..
22
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1 JIM:

Yes, that's right, Bess..Sometimes a fellow hits a situation when he doesn't know just what to do, or what's right or wrong to do - like now, with this cussed telegram full of heart break here in my hand..Good gravy, hasn't Ruth Evans taken a tough enough beating lately without cramming this down her throat too? (PAUSE) Well? Did I do such a terrible thing holding this telegram out on her?

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10 MARY:

Do you all think I went overboard just 'cause I wanted to spare Ruth for a little while? (PAUSE) Well, what about it? I think, maybe, each one of us might have been tempted to do just what you've done, Mr. Robbins..But..

11
12 JIM:

Go on, Mary.

13 MARY:

I..I'm wondering if it won't be even harder on Mrs. Evans later on, I mean if you still wait to give her that message..because all these days she'll be getting more and more excited about her husband's coming home..and..oh, I don't think you ought to wait, Mr. Robbins.

14
15
16
17
18 BESS:

That's the way I feel, too, Jim. Holding news like this away from her..well..It's something none of us have the..the right to do.

19
20
21 JIM:

Yeah. I see that, now..You think I've done wrong too, don't you, Jerry..

22
23 JERRY:

I know how you feel, Jim, but..

24 JIM:

But you'd the telegram pronto, huh? Okay..Where's my jacket, Bess? I'm headin' for Bald Peak right now..

1 BESS: Jim, I'll take it to Ruth for you if you want me too.

2 JIM: Thanks, Bess. I reckon I better handle it (FADE) myself...

3 PAUSE:

4 JIM: (FADING IN) There's the cabin just ahead, Jerry.

5 JERRY: Yeah, and I see Mrs. Evans is busy cleaning up things

6 out in front of the doorway.

7 JIM: Jerry, I'd like you to know I appreciate you're comin' up

8 here with me tonight...You didn't have to, you know.

9 JERRY: Skip it, Jim....

10 JIM: I guess this is about as mean a job as I've ever had to do...

11 RUTH: (OFF) Hello there, Ranger! You too, Mr. Quick. Welcome

12 to Bald Peak...

13 JERRY: (UP) Hi there! (DOWN) Golly, she's got good eyesight to

14 see us after dark like this.

15 JIM: Yep. Pete...he had good eyes too....that's one of the

16 things that made him the crackerjack lookout he was...

17 (SOTTO) Doggone it, Jerry. I can't give that woman

18 this telegram. Look at her there, smiling and happy as

19 though she didn't have a care in the world...

20 JERRY: (SOTTO) Easy, Jim.

21 RUTH: (COMING ON) Come on, Rangers. Sit down and rest..

22 I've just about finished with the supper dishes and all...

23 JIM: Thanks, Mrs. Evans, but we came up here to...I came up

24 to....

25

1 RUTH: (BUBBLING) Oh, let's forget official business for a
2 while...It's such a pretty night and, well, it's swell,
3 you coming up here this way. Go on, sit down on the
4 steps here, Mr. Quick. You too, Ranger....

5 JIM: Huh? Yeah, sure, thanks...Sit down, Jerry.

6 JERRY: Right.

7 RUTH: You know something, Ranger?

8 JIM: What's that, Mrs. Evans?

9 RUTH: I think there's really something to that old saying, "It's
10 an ill wind that blows nobody good!"

11 JERRY: You're thinking about the flood, Mrs. Evans?...

12 RUTH: Yes. That's the ill wind, I'd say.....that and what it
13 did to the place Pete fixed up for little Peter and me...

14 JIM: Say, I clean forgot about the little feller. Where is he?
15 Asleep?

16 RUTH: And how! That's part of the good I was talking about.
17 For little Peter, just these few days up here at Bald Peak
18 have erased every bit of fear and unhappiness that the storm
19 and the flood brought him. Coming up here to live, for him
20 it's been like...well, like coming out of a dark, dark hole
21 into a land of sunshine and light and happy playmates...

22 JERRY: Meaning the chipmunks and birds, I take it.

23 RUTH: Yes, that's right. It's been wonderful for little Peter,
24 Ranger, but I think it's been even more wonderful for me...

25 JIM: That's fine, Mrs. Evans, mighty fine. But look, I've got
to.....

RUTH: It'll wait. It's got to wait. Don't you see? I'm just so full of appreciation for getting to come back up here to Bald Peak, I've got to tell you something about it. I've been wanting to, all week.

JERRY: Shucks, Mrs. Evans, you don't owe us or the Forest service a thing. We're mighty glad to have an old hand like yourself looking out for fires up here.

RUTH: But it's more than just the job and the pay and all. The money helps plenty, of course, but what I wanted to say was that I get a new kind of happiness being up here, looking out for fires as you say. For the first time, you see, I've got a real, personal reason for wanting to keep this whole Bald Peak country free from fires...

JERRY: Now you're thinking about that flood again, huh?

RUTH: Yes, Mr. Quick. I get a thrill out of doing my job here, with a sort of vengeance. I know that cutting off all that timber above Willow Glen helped bring that flood down on us. Well, you can bet I'll do everything I can to keep fires from destroying the timber around Bald Peak...

JIM: Of course, Mrs. Evans, that goes without saying. Now, I'm afraid, I've got.....

1 RUTH: Just one more thing, Ranger. I'm awful glad to be back
2 to be back up here because all around me are reminders of
3 the wonderful days when Pete and I used to be up here....
4 It's so easy to play make-believe with little Peter that
5 his Daddy's always just 'round the woodshed or up in the
6 tower, and, well, sometimes its even more real than that
7 for me. You know Pete's coming home soon, and when he finds
8 us so happy and contented here, I'm sure he won't mind a
9 bit about our losing everything in the flood...Well, now
10 I'm through, really.... (LAUGHING) Please forgive me
11 for bubbling over like I have....

12 JERRY: It is kinda swell the way things worked out all right.
13 (HASTILY) I mean you're coming back here, and finding
14 things so pleasant and all.

15 RUTH: Oh it's grand...Now, Ranger, what's the official business
16 you've got on your mind.

17 JIM: Mrs. Evans, II feel doggonned bad about this but....

18 PHONE RINGS TWO LONGS AND A SHORT OFF, REPEAT

19 RUTH: Say, wasn't that two longs and a short?...That's my call.

20 JERRY: Want me to answer it, while Jim goes on with what he....

21 RUTH: Oh no, I'll answer it. That's part of my job. (GOING OFF)
22 Won't be but a minute...Excuse me, please.

23 SCREEN DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES, PHONE STOPS RINGING
24
25

JIM: Jerry, how the dickens can I give this telegram to her, with her brimming over with pure happiness like she is? You heard her. How can I mess all that up?

JERRY: I know, Jim, but it's like Mary and Mrs. Robbins said. The longer we wait the tougher it's going to be. You just gotta give it to her, Jim, and just as soon as she gets back here, too.

JIM: Yeah, I reckon you're right.

JERRY: Hold it in your hand, Jim. That way, she's bound to see it and you can't miss giving it to her..There, that's it...Shh, here she comes...

SCREEN DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES

RUTH: (COMING ON, EXCITED) Ranger, Mr. Quick, he's here! he's here in the States and he's on his way home!

JERRY: Who you talking about, Mrs. Evans?

RUTH: Pete! My husband! You both knew he was coming home on furlough, didn't you? Well, he'll be here in just a few days. That was Pete himself on the phone, just then, calling me long distance. He didn't have much time to talk - Had to make his train. Oh, isn't it wonderful! I hadn't expected him for weeks yet. And, Ranger, he knows all about the flood and my being here at Bald Peak and everything....

JERRY: The Willow Glen operator must've told him when he tried to get you.

JIM: Mrs. Evans, you're sure it was Pete? Dead sure?

1 RUTH: (LAUGHING) Of course. I'd know his voice anytime..
2 And besides that he called me..he called me "Rutabaga,"
3 and, well, there's only one person in the world who'd
4 ever call me that.

5 JERRY: Rutabaga, huh? That's long for Ruth, is that it?

6 RUTH: (LAUGHING) That's not the reason but anyway (SERIOUS)
7 he did say something that puzzled me.

8 JIM: Huh? What's that?

9 RUTH: He wanted to know if I'd been worrying about him, if I'd
10 gotten any message saying he was missing, or lost at sea,
11 or the like? What's all that mean, Ranger?

12 JIM: (CHEERFULLY) I wouldn't know, Mrs. Evans. I can't
13 imagine...Shucks, as he's hale and hearty and on his
14 way home, why even think about it?

15 RUTH: I won'tOh, dear, you still haven't told me why you
16 came up here tonight. You were saying you felt bad
17 about something...Oh, that envelope you've got there. Is
18 that for me?

19 JIM: This? No, no indeed. There's nothing of any account in
20 this envelope. Might just as well tear it up (TEARING
21 SOUND). There...No, Mrs. Evans. What I came up here to
22 see you about was...well, Pete calling you "rutabaga" sorta
23 reminds me. You know you were wondering if you couldn't
24 have a little Victory Garden up here on the mountain top?
25

1 RUTH: (PUZZLED) Yes? I do want a little garden even though
2 it's a bit late but....

3 JIM: Well, I feel doggonned bad about it, Mrs. Evans, but we
4 won't be able to get a plow up here 'fore next week.

5 JERRY: (HASTILY) Yeah, that's right, Mrs. Evans. You see, it
6 needs fixing.... the plow does.

7 RUTH: (SURPRISED) And you two came way up here just to tell
8 me that? Why, Ranger! Couldn't you have given me that
9 message on the telephone?

10 JIM: Well, doggone! You know, Mrs. Evans, we never thought
11 about the phone at all, did we, Jerry?

12 JERRY: (SERIOUSLY) No, sir! We didn't figure on a phone call at
13 all!

14 MUSICAL: RINALE

15 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during
16 the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation
17 with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States
18 Department of Agriculture....

19 (BERGOFFEN)

20 mk

21 kg

22

23

24

25

(OVERLAP) Yes, I do want a little garden even though

it's a bit late now.

Well, I feel disappointed about it, Mrs. Evans, but

you'll be able to get a plan up here before next week.

(BASTLEY) Yes, that's right, Mrs. Evans. You see,

needs fixing. The plan goes.

(BASTLEY) And you can see how we have to fall

back? Why, Margaret? Couldn't you have given us that

message on the telephone?

Well, Margaret, you know, Mrs. Evans, we never thought

about the phone at all, did we, Jerry?

(BASTLEY) No, sir. We didn't think on a phone call at

all.

MRS. EVANS: RING

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers come to you each week during

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with the cooperation of the Forest Service, United States

Department of Agriculture...

(BASTLEY)